



For Immediate Release

8-9-15 Press Release

Subject: BNSF Engine Fire

Location: Roosevelt, Washington

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Crews from the Highway 8 fire assisted local fire agencies on a train engine that was reported on fire around noon today in Roosevelt, Washington. At the time of this release, there have been no injuries reported.

Engineers traveling from Pasco, Washington to Portland, Oregon noticed smoke as they turned a corner near the rail yard in Roosevelt, Washington. Recognizing quickly that something was wrong; the engineers pulled into the rail yard and disconnected the material they were hauling to Portland. After disconnecting the remaining cars, the engineers pulled the burning engine into an area surrounded by gravel to prevent fire spread.

The engine was lofting smoke from the top but rarely showed any active flame. Material burning is assumed to be residual diesel fuel and lubricants from the engine.

Local fire crews moved rail yard equipment away from the area. This allowed better access for firefighters.

Local Fire Chief Earl Snyder assumed command of the incident and created a safe perimeter for operations. With no external active fire and the contents being contained within the engine, the plan was to protect from a distance and prepare for a defensive operation. Foam was on hand to help control the fire if needed. Thermal imaging was used to monitor the temperature of the engine and when the smoke had decreased significantly as well as the temperature, firefighters breached the interior of the engine and located the seat of the fire. The fire was extinguished and command was transferred to BNSF for further investigation.

Approximately 35 firefighters are on scene as well as BNSF supervisors. Resources include Highway 8 fire personnel and local agencies: Klickitat County Fire Protection District 9 (Command), Goldendale City Fire, Klickitat County Fire Protection District 7.

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